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STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

October 17, 2007

The Honorable Michelle McManus, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Natural Resources
S-2 Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Michael Lahti, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Natural Resources
S-1489 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senator McManus and Representative Lahti:

The Department of Natural Resources (Department) is required to report on efforts taken to improve the state and federal relationship for controlling cormorants and how cormorant control funding was used, pursuant to section 502(2) of PA 344 of 2006.

Use of the Funds

Funds appropriated for cormorant control (\$150,000) were transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Services, Wildlife Services (WS) by the Department under a Cooperative Service Agreement. In an agreement and work plan with WS, the funding was to be used to implement an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management approach to reduce cormorant damage.

Agency Actions to Improve State and Federal Relations

The Department took action to improve state and federal relations for controlling cormorants, as follows:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) and other Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces met at an annual cormorant management meeting on February 21 and 22, 2007, at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University. This meeting provided a venue to discuss activities that were completed in 2006 and potential cormorant control activities for 2007. The meeting was also used to clarify any outstanding issues with the current Resources Depredation Order. Based on these discussions, additional clarification of the order was provided by the USFWS in March 2007.
- The Department coordinated two meetings with action agencies to agree upon 2007 activities related to cormorants in Michigan.
- The Nongame Bird Technical Section of the Mississippi Flyway Council met on July 26 and 27, 2007, and cormorant management was discussed. The Department was represented by Todd Hogrefe of the Wildlife Division. The discussion included

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considerations for regional population management, outlining cormorant population increases and impacts, issues/recommendations surrounding a regional approach to cormorant management, monitoring the effectiveness of control efforts, how to focus potential control efforts, how to set objectives for a regional approach, and the importance of band returns. Conclusions centered on using state objectives for a basis to set regional objectives. The Ad Hoc Committee on cormorants was given the charge to begin gathering information and developing draft products.

Impacts to Cormorants

A final report of 2007 activities conducted by the WS is pending and will be submitted as an addendum to this report.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Schafer, Chief
Budget and Support Services
517-335-3276

cc: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Members
House Appropriations Subcommittee Members
Ms. Jessica Runnels, Senate Fiscal Agency
Dr. Kirk Lindquist, House Fiscal Agency
Mr. Robert Emerson, State Budget Director, Department of
Management and Budget (DMB)
Mr. Jacques McNeely, DMB
Ms. Jennifer Harrison, DMB
Director Rebecca Humphries, DNR
Mr. Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy, DNR
Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR
Mr. Dennis Fox, Chief of Staff, DNR
Mr. Dan Eichinger, Acting Legislative Liaison, DNR
Mr. Douglas Reeves, DNR
Ms. Jane Schultz, DNR